

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 47th SESSION

Opening Statement (21 June 2021)

The President of the Council, H.E. Ms. Nazhat Shameem Khan Ms. Khan opened the 47th session and reminded that the extraordinary modalities were still in place for the session.

Regarding the **participation of Myanmar** during the 47th session, Ms. Khan informed the delegates that, pending a decision by the General Assembly on the representation of Myanmar in the Human Rights Council, the Secretariat cannot process requests regarding the participation of anyone as part of the delegation of Myanmar in Council meetings.

The Council therefore **postponed the consideration of the report of the Universal Periodic Review of Myanmar** at this session and approved the programme of work, with the understanding that the **holding of interactive dialogues** with Myanmar, one with the Special Rapporteur on Myanmar and another one with the High Commissioner, following her oral update, both held pursuant to resolution 46/21, during this session would be **subject to further consideration** by the Bureau and the Council.

Nineteen speakers took the floor to express their overall concern over the situation of human rights crisis in Myanmar in the aftermath of the military coup, and to express their position regarding holding of interactive dialogues without participation of the country concerned.

A number of countries, including Austria on behalf of the European Union, Indonesia, Netherlands, France, Germany, Italy, Ukraine, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom, Denmark, Czech Republic and Japan, insisted that the human rights situation in Myanmar was pressing and therefore **the interactive dialogues should, by all means, be maintained**. Besides, they said, there was no procedural requirement for the country concerned to take part in the interactive dialogues, unlike during the Universal Periodic Review process.

Yet other delegations, notably Philippines, Russian Federation, China, Venezuela and Eritrea, asked for **the dialogues not to be held** if Myanmar was unable to participate, underlining that the involvement of concerned countries was not only a fundamental principle of the Council's work but essential for any constructive dialogue. Brazil said it would support any decision taken by the Council as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, Mexico said it hoped that an acceptable solution could be found that all delegations could agree upon, and Indonesia said they would appreciate knowing the opinion of country concerned.